



# consumer news

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION & WELFARE  
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Virginia H. Knauer, Director

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## In a nutshell

President Nixon has again urged Americans to conserve energy. In his nationwide address on Nov. 25, President Nixon explained the actions he has ordered to conserve energy & explained Federal requirements that will go into effect when Congress approves necessary legislation. He specifically asked consumers to do 3 things voluntarily now:

- Lower thermostat settings by 6° below the normal setting to achieve a national daytime average of 68°.
- Drive no faster than 50 miles per hour on highways. Do not wait for Congress to pass the President's energy emergency legislation to legally set the national speed limit at 50 mph.
- Turn off all ornamental gas & electric outdoor lights—including Christmas lights & other lights for decoration—now. Do not wait for Congress to pass the laws requiring these lights to be turned off.

## Holiday travel plans

If you already have plane reservations for the December holidays, you should reconfirm them now. You may have reservations for a flight that has been canceled because of the fuel shortage.

If you are planning to take a bus, you might plan to get to the station earlier than you usually would. Bus companies normally add extra buses to routes to take care of everyone, but there might be some delays as extra buses (& drivers) are brought to the station.

If you are planning to take a train during the holidays, get a reservation early. A ticket by itself does not guarantee you a seat; it just guarantees you the chance to get on the train. For the Thanksgiving weekend, Amtrak, the nationwide railroad passenger service, honored all tickets, but many persons had to stand. If a ticket agent cannot get a reserved seat for you, he probably will recommend your buying a ticket & taking your chances on getting a seat.

If possible, try to change the time or day you plan to travel during the holidays. Avoid the peak hours & days. It could make the difference in your traveling at all—whether by plane, train, bus or your own car. (Remember: If everyone wants to "fill 'er up" the same day, service stations may not have enough gasoline to go around.)

## Gasoline mileage for '74 cars—additional list

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has released an additional list of its ratings of gasoline mileage for 1974 model cars sold in the U.S. EPA's first list appeared in September [CONSUMER NEWS: Oct. 1]. EPA's miles-per-gallon data is based on its tests for car manufacturers' compliance with the agency's standards for auto air pollution control. EPA's test is a suburban/urban cycle that is 7.5 miles long. The test is patterned after the conditions a driver encounters going from home to work, driving at speeds up to 57 miles per hour. However, actual miles per gallon depend on several factors, including the manner in which the car is driven, frequency of cold starts, use of power-absorbing equipment (such as air conditioning, power steering & automatic transmission), car weight & axle ratio.

CONSUMER NEWS is printing the ratings for cars not included either in EPA's September list or in the newsletter's Oct. 1 issue. Cars are listed under company names, which are in alphabetical order. The number sign, #, & number by each model name indicate its weight classification (the weight classifications are listed in the footnote below). The figures in parentheses beside the car name provide information about the engine. In "(360-4)," for example, the number before the hyphen represents the engine's displacement (size) in cubic inches, & the number after the hyphen represents the carburetor rating, 4 venturis (barrels). No distinction, however, is made between carburetor ratings achieved with multiple carburetors as opposed to single, multi-venturi carburetors. For example, the number 4 could mean one 4-barrel carburetor or 4 single barrel carburetors. (When "FI" is used after the hyphen, it means the car has fuel injection.) Following the parentheses is either the designation "A" for automatic transmission, "M" for manual or SA for semi-automatic. The number, as in "A3," tells the number of forward speeds. The last number after the model name is the miles per gallon rating. Thus, "Honda Civic #1 (76-1) SA 21.8" means the Honda model is in the 2000 pound class, has a 76 cubic inch engine with a one barrel carburetor & semi-automatic transmission—21.8 miles per gallon.

For a free copy of EPA's up-to-date listing of miles per gallon for 1974 cars, write to Fuel Economy, Office of Public Affairs, Environmental Protection Agency, Washington, DC 20460.

<b>A</b>		Bronco #7 (302-2) A3	9.4	Scout 4 wd #8 (345-2) A3	9.6
American Motors Corp.		Torino station wagon #8 (302-2) A3	11.4	Scout 4 wd #8 (345-4) A3	8.5
AMC Gremlin #5 (258-1) M4		Mercury		Scout 2 wd #8 (345-4) M4	7.4
Jeep CJ-S #5 (258-1) M3		Montego #8 (302-2) M3	11.0	100 Travelall 2wd #9 (401-2) A3	9.8
Jeep CJ-S #5 (304-2) M3		Montego station wagon #10 (460-4) A3	7.2	100 Travelall 2wd #9 (401-2) M4	8.3
Jeep CJ-S #5 (232-1) M3				100 Travelall 2wd #9 (345-2) M5	7.2
Jeep CJ-S #5 (258-1) M4				100 Travelall 2wd #10 (391-4) A3	7.8
AMC Hornet #6 (258-1) A3				200 Travelall 4wd #10 (391-4) A3	7.5
AMC Javelin #7 (360-4) M4		<b>G</b>			
Jeep Wagoneer #7 (258-1) M3		General Motors Corp.			
Jeep Wagoneer #8 (360-4) A3		Chevrolet			
Jeep Wagoneer #8 (360-2) A3		Vega Hatchback #5 (140-2) A3	19.4		
		K-10 Blazer #8 (350-2) A3	9.6	<b>J</b>	
		Impala Custom coupe #8 (350-2) A3	10.1	Jaguar	
		K-10 Blazer #9 (350-2) A3	9.2	E Type Series III #6 (326-4) A3	9.7
<b>C</b>				<b>M</b>	
Checker				Maserati	
Checker sedan #8 (350-2) A3				Bora #7 (301-8) M5	11.6
Chrysler Corp.				120 #7 (301-8) M5	7.8
Dodge				Mercedes Benz	
Dart #6 (178-1) A3				115 #6 (141-1) A4	14.3
Citroen				Mitsubishi	
SM #6 (181-6) A4				Dodge Colt coupe #3 (98-2) A3	22.7
				Dodge Colt coupe #3 (98-2) M4	22.5
<b>F</b>					(Continued page 3)
Ford Motor Co.					
Ford					
Pinto #4 (140-2) A3					
Maverick #6 (250-1) M3					
Bronco #6 (200-1) M3					
Bronco #7 (302-2) M3					

Weight classifications: #1—2000 lbs. #3—2500 lbs. #5—3000 lbs. #7—4000 lbs. #9—5000 lbs.  
#2—2250 lbs. #4—2750 lbs. #6—3500 lbs. #8—4500 lbs. #10—5500 lbs.

## Progress report: consumer action panels

News is being made by the CAPs—consumer action panels. Several industries have set up these panels to help settle consumer complaints. Following the lead of the appliance industry, which in 1970 organized MACAP (Major Appliances Consumer Action Panel), other industries have established CRICAP (Carpet & Rug Industry Consumer Action Panel), FICAP (Furniture Industry Consumer Advisory Panel) & AutoCAP (Automobile Consumer Action Panel).

Under the guidance of Office of Consumer Affairs (OCA), key segments of each of these industries have organized machinery for processing & settling consumer problems more efficiently & effectively. Although each panel follows a slightly different procedure, all share the same general approach in requesting that the consumer first take a complaint directly to the store or dealer who sold the product. If that does not work, the next step is to write to the manufacturer. As a last resort, if necessary, the consumer should write directly to the consumer action panel. Always send copies of bills, receipts, letters & other documents. Keep originals in your own files.

Here is a recap on the 4 existing CAPs.

- CRICAP (Box 1568, Dalton, GA 30720) is designed to provide educational material as well as to help settle consumer complaints & to provide product information. A note to the above address will bring you a leaflet describing CRICAP in detail. Consumer organizations & consumer protection agencies, as well as news media, are being informed of CRICAP's establishment. They will be kept posted on development of consumer information materials & other new CRICAP projects.

- FICAP (Box 951, High Point, NC 27261) will accept complaints from consumers after they have first asked the retailer to handle the problem. To bring FICAP to consumers' attention, plans are being made to publicize the panel through the news media & also to urge participating manufacturers to label their products with hang-tags bearing the FICAP symbol.

- AutoCAP has been organized on a pilot project basis, utilizing local and state panels. Introduced with seven such panels [CONSUMER NEWS: Aug. 15 for addresses & details], AutoCAP has expanded into 6 additional locations:

Idaho Auto Dealers Association  
2230 Maine St.  
Boise, ID 83706

Washington State Auto Dealers Association  
826 Joseph Vance Building  
Seattle, WA 98101

Greater Louisville Auto Dealers Association  
1103 Heyburn Building  
332 W. Broadway  
Louisville, KY 40202

Oklahoma Auto Dealers Association  
1601 City National Bank Tower  
Oklahoma City, OK 73102

Kentucky Automobile Dealers Association  
Box 498  
Frankfort, KY 40601

Connecticut Automotive Trades Association Inc.  
18 N. Main St.  
West Hartford, CT 06107

- MACAP (20 N. Wacker Dr., Chicago, IL 60606) has begun consideration of new approaches suggested by OCA for enlarging its area of activity & for promoting more public awareness of MACAP as a consumer resource.

## Gasoline mileage (continued)

### N

#### Nissan

Datsun 710 #4 (108-2) A3 20.7  
Datsun 610 #4 (119-2) M4 19.5  
Datsun 260Z #5 (157-2) M4 15.0

### O

#### Opel

\* Manta Luxus #3 (116-2) A3 17.8

### P

#### Peugeot

504 sedan #5 (120-2) A3 17.0

### R

#### Renault

17 Sport coupe #4 (96-FI) M5 17.8  
Rover  
88 Land Rover #6 (139-1) M4 17.7

### T

#### Toyota

Corolla-2 sedan #2 (97-2) M4 18.8  
Corolla-2 station wagon #3 (97-2) A3 19.0  
Corona-2D sedan #3 (120-2) A3 16.9

#### Mark II station wagon #5

(156-2) A3 19.4  
Hilux camper #5 (120-2) M4 17.1  
Mark II sedan #5 (156-2) M4 15.0  
Land Cruiser #7 (237-1) M3 12.6  
Land Cruiser station wagon #8 (237-2) M3 9.8

### V

#### Volkswagen

The Thing #2 (97-1) M4 21.0

\* EPA's new rating; previous rating was 12.2.

## Be a monitor

**Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC)** needs you.

In a new recruiting program, CPSC plans to train men & women to work as volunteer consumer deputies to police stores for products that have been banned, especially toys. Although most stores usually remove unsafe merchandise from the shelves when CPSC issues a ban, some stores may not know of the ban or may overlook an item that should be removed.

The program's initial effort is to see that unsafe, banned toys are not being sold during the December holiday season. Store surveillance is a normal function of CPSC field inspectors, but the addition of volunteers will provide a boost to the agency's efforts to protect children from toy related injuries. [CONSUMER NEWS incorrectly stated Nov. 1 that there were 43,000 toy-related injuries reported by hospital emergency rooms a year. The correct figure is 143,000.]

Consumer deputies will not be employees of CPSC. If a consumer deputy finds a banned product being sold, he is to notify the store manager or owner & ask him to remove the toy from sale. If the retailer does not cooperate, a CPSC field inspector will take over the case.

It is not too late to volunteer in your community. To volunteer, get in touch with your nearest CPSC office. Area offices are in the following cities [See CONSUMER NEWS: Nov. 1 for telephone numbers]: Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Cleveland, Dallas, Denver, Kansas City, Los Angeles, Minneapolis, New Orleans, New York, Philadelphia, San Francisco & Seattle.

NOTE: CPSC's telephone numbers for information about toys or for making a complaint about a toy [CONSUMER NEWS: Nov. 1] have caused confusion for some consumers. Residents in Maryland should call 800-492-2937, except residents of Montgomery County should dial only 492-2937. Consumers in all other states may call 800-638-2666. Those in Washington, DC, should call only 638-2666. CPSC's main number is 202-634-7700.

### Toy safety: one store's role

Giant Food Inc., a supermarket chain in Washington, DC, has announced a toy safety program to help consumers in their purchases. Giant—with advice from **Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) & Office of Consumer Affairs (OCA)**—has been working with manufacturers to improve toy safety & has tested toys in its own laboratory. A result of these efforts is Giant's *Consumer Guide to Toys*, which lists safe toys & classifies them by children's ages. Consumers outside the Washington area may get a free copy of the guide by writing to Giant Food, Box 1804, Washington, DC 20013.

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